(c) what is the quantum and percentage expenses on Primary, secondary and vocational education and the number of students covered in these sectors in our country; and

(d) what is per capita expenditure on primary, secondary and higher education ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to reduce the present level of funding of Higher Education by Central Government. Educational loans to students for pursuing Higher Education cannot tally substitute the financial support presently being extended by the Government to institutions of higher education.

(b) The National Policy on Education and the Programme of Action 1992 have envisaged various measures for raising internal resources and improving cost efficiency of Higher Education institutions with a view to reduce the burden on the State.

(c) and (d) The requisite information is placed on the Table of the House in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sector	Expenditure (Centre + States/ UTs) (Rs. in crores)	Number of students covered (In crore)	Year 1992-93 Average cost per student
1. Elementary Education (BE)	9397.42 (45.30)	14.41	652.15
2. Secondary Education (BE)	6562.36 (31.60)	2.27	2890.91
3. Higher Education (BE)	2631.98 (12.70)	0.44	5981.77

(.*) Figures in brackets indicate the percentage to the total expenditure of Education Departments in the Centreand States.

(*) The data in this statement is based on the relevant Budgets and gross enrolment statistics for the year 1992-93.

Death due to Malnutrition in Dharni Maharashtra

98. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Times of India dated 9th September, 1993, to the effect that 160 tribal children died of malnutrition in the two months in Dharni (Amravati-Maharashtra); and

(b) if so, whether Government have caused any inquiry into the report; if so, the findings thereof, indicating the circumstances leading to such deaths ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra has assessed the reasons as arising out of malnutrition due to various social and economic factors, lack of nutritional education and unwillingness to avail medical health care facilities.

99. *[Transferred to 14th December.* 1993-1